

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DDI

DATE: 25 August 1958

FROM : RWK

AUC

SUBJECT: Arab-Israeli Military Balance

Bob, when I shot attached to OCI they protested that the IAC's ad hoc Arab-Israeli subcommittee shies off completely from any estimating and would be unable to do what I think GG wants. It should be a coordinated job, of course, and ONE is the logical alternative, but I hate to make a big production out of this. Three possibilities exist:

1. Settle for an A-I subcommittee current order of battle appraisal, avoiding any estimate of net capabilities. Would GG settle for this? *mb*
2. Ask ONE to do a coordinated memo for IAC noting (not an NIE).
3. Get ONE-OCI to do an uncoordinated job, consulting IAC working level.

Since you accepted this commitment, how far should we go?

Try this first.

Bob 9K.

25 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: AD/CI

SUBJECT : Comparative Military Strength and Capabilities of
Israel and Various Combinations of Arab States

1. At the Planning Board on 22 August in connection with the projected Planning Board preparation of a new Near East policy statement, Gray asked about the military balance between Israel and the Arabs and how it might change. Among the questions raised were: How efficient would the Arabs be in using Soviet weapons? How about the logistic problems of bringing combined Arab strength to bear on Israel? How would the balance be altered if the UAR, Jordan, Iraq, and the Saudis joined under a unified command?

2. Mr. Amory undertook to provide some intelligence on these matters. He suggests that the special Arab-Israeli subcommittee of the IAC is the logical group to handle it, for noting by the IAC. I think that about two weeks would be reasonable.

3. It seems to me that after briefly racking up the current military strengths and weaknesses of the Arabs and Israelis, the group might assess relative capabilities under two contingencies.

A. Israel vs. the UAR, Iraqis, and Saudis, in event of an early collapse in Jordan.

B. Israel vs. a united UAR, Jordan, Iraqi, Saudi command, say, within the next year.

4. I merely suggest the above as illustrative; if other ways of slicing the pie seem more logical by all means do so.

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